

Now To Question THE UNQUESTIONABLE
Among the inquiries of Congress this year, the one that has been called an "intelligence" that activity that tells us what even our best friends won't tell us. There is congressional distrust of our chief agency for gathering hard-to-get information, the Central Intelligence Agency. The distrust stems largely from two incidents, the U-2 spy plane case of 1960 and the disaster in the Bay of Pigs last April. In addition, Congressmen are expressing moral and philosophical dissatisfaction with the way the Agency is being run.

After the Cuban affair, in which the CIA played a leading if not impressive role, Senator William Fulbright spoke of a moral problem he found in hearing a leaf from the totalitarian book. He said he thought it ill fitting that we use the methods of those we presume to despise. At about the same time, Senator Eugene McCarthy justified the pressure for an investigation of the CIA. He said, "Under the Constitution, Congress is called upon to participate in a declaration of war. In modern times, war is not declared. Congress, therefore, has a continuing and very substantial responsibility for policy decisions with regard to the cold war or conducting foreign policy by any other means." (The Supreme Court some day may have something to say about the application of the war-making power, which belongs to Congress, to problems of old-line foreign policy, which belong to the Executive.)

The end of November, Allen Dulles, himself one of the century's most celebrated spies, stepped down as Director of CIA in favor of John McCone, a businessman whose previous Government service had been in agencies that have less to hide. It might be that the presence of a new Director will lessen congressional curiosity. But it is more likely that it will not, although it may take some of the rancor out of the investigation.

Congressmen, jealous of their purse power, know how much they don't know. They don't know how much money the CIA spends, what it is spent on, even who some of its high officials are. All these matters are scattered throughout the federal budget. It is unlikely that Congressmen, who study the magnitude of CIA operations, will ask that detailed information about the CIA and its activities be made public. For to make such detail public would be to ruin an agency that must operate in the dark.

What Congressmen are more likely to ask is that the Agency have another kind of check upon it, an assurance that somebody will ask it questions. As has been set up, the CIA is both a coordinating organization and a semimilitary organization. It acts upon its own advice, sometimes, and this may have been the case in Cuba. It is so blinded by its own blindness that it can't achieve any perspective.

How different the CIA's adventure might have turned out if, in the planning stage, somebody not connected with the CIA had stood up to ask some hard questions. But one doesn't press one's own boss too hard, especially when the boss is feeling pleased with himself.

British intelligence, which has been notably successful for many years, does not operate this way. It is a finding organization. Facts are acted upon, and one of the other agencies, the military, perhaps the Foreign Office. It seems quite likely that this sort of thing is what Congressmen demand of our Intelligence Agency.

In an imperfect and sometimes perfidious world, "intelligence" is something we must have. We don't have to be especially proud of it, but we do have to have it. And we have to have the best.

"Watchdog" Committee for the CIA

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

HON. WAYNE MORSE

OF OREGON

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Friday, February 3, 1962

Mr. MORSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Appendix of the Record, a fine editorial from the Eugene Register-Guard entitled "Now To Question the Unquestionable," dealing with the problem of the need for a "watchdog" committee for the CIA.

There being no objection, the editorial was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows: